

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6862

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTREAL 1716

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, EAIR, ICAO

SUBJ: ICAO: ELECTION NEW COUNCIL PRESIDENT - USSR RESPONSE

REF: MONTREAL 1666

1. USSR REP MOROSOV CALLED ON USREP OCTOBER 21 TO REPORT HIS GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE. (HE HAD GONE TO SOVIET EMBASSY/OTTAWA TO CONSULT WITH EMBASSY AND COMMUNICATE WITH MOSCOW.) FIRST RESPONSE WAS NEBULOUS -- WOULD NEED TIME TO CONSIDER ETC. LATER (AFTER RETURNING MONTREAL) HE RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS "PRECISE INSTRUCTIONS WERE ON WAY" AND HE SHOULD AWAIT THEM AND ACT ONLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS. FYI: IF HIS PREDECESSOR BORISOV BECAME INVOLVED IN MOSCOW, FORTHCOMING INSTRUCTIONS MIGHT HAVE FAVORABLE LEANING. IF HOLD-UP MEANS INTRICATE DIPLOMATIC QUID-PRO-QUO MANEUVERING (LIKELY), RESULT UNPREDICTABLE. END FYI. MOROSOV TOLD USREP HE WILL CALL AS SOON AS "PRECISE INSTRUCTIONS" RECEIVED.

2. IN SOCIAL ENCOUNTER MOROSOV REMINDED USREP OF "SUMMIT MEETINGS" PRESIDENT AND BREZHNEV NEXT MONTH. HE SAID THIS OBVIOUSLY "WOULD CREATE FAVORABLE DIPLOMATIC CLIMATE" FOR U.S. CANDIDACY ICAO PRESIDENCY.

3. MOROSOV ENGAGED USREP IN LONG CONFIDENTIAL DISCUSSION SAYING SEVERAL COUNCIL MEMBERS HAD CALLED ON HIM, IN ONE CASE "A GROUP,"

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TO ASK HIS POSITION RE A US ALTERNATIVE CANDIDACY. HE

IMPLIED REPEATEDLY THAT DISCUSSIONS HAD LITTLE TO DO WITH "PRO" OR "CON" THE CANDIDACY BECAUSE HE SAID "NO ONE ON COUNCIL HAS ANY PROBLEMS WITH YOUR PERSON." THE DISCUSSIONS CENTERED AROUND: (A) COUNCIL MEMBERS SUSPICION REGARDING USG LAST MINUTE "MANEUVER" AND (B) CONCERN ESPECIALLY OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS THAT SUDDENLY A MAJOR CANDIDACY BY A MAJOR STATE MAY APPEAR THREE WEEKS BEFORE THE ELECTION, AFTER THEY HAVE BEEN REPORTING WITH INCREASING FIRMNESS FOR THREE MONTHS THAT THERE WERE NO ALTERNATIVES TO KOTAITE. NEW COUNCIL REPS APPARENTLY FEAR THEY HAVE FAILED TO PICK UP SOME DIPLOMATIC SIGNALS.

4. SOVIST REP ASKED USREP POINT BLANK WHY WE WERE ONLY NOW EXPLORING ALTERNATIVES. USREP RESPONDED THAT (A) WE WERE EXPECTING THAT QUALIFIED CANDIDATES WOULD APPEAR GIVING COUNCIL A CHOICE; (B) THEY HAD NOT AND WE WERE AWARE OF MANY COUNCIL PREFERENCES TO KEEP KOTAITE AS SYG; (C) WE THOUGHT ONE MONTH BEFORE ELECTION WAS LONG ENOUGH TO WAIT, AND STILL GIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS TIME TO GET INSTRUCTIONS.

5. MOROSOV DISCUSSED SYGSHIP. RIDICULED BEDARD. SAID IF US INTENDS DO ANYTHING ABOUT SYG OPENING IT SHOULD BE "VERY EARLY" AND USSR THINKS "IT WOULD BE GOOD."
HARPER

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